

Old-school Streeterville diner Mary's Cafe to close

By: [Micah Maidenberg](#) November 15, 2013



Mary's Cafe, one of the last old-school diners in Streeterville, will close tomorrow following a 15-year run in the increasing glitzy neighborhood.

Cafe owner Mary Dodas said it was the "right time" to move on from the restaurant after 15 years. She declined to comment further.

Ms. Dodas recently sold the 2,500-square-foot restaurant building, at 215 E. Grand Ave., for close to \$1.5 million, almost triple the \$500,000 she paid for the property in 1999, according to county records.

Known for its hearty breakfast and lunch fare, Mary's attracted a crowd that included Chicago Tribune journalists, who could walk to the restaurant from the newspaper's headquarters at 435 N. Michigan Ave., about three blocks to the south.

Tribune columnist John Kass conducted interviews at the eatery, such as **one** with former City Clerk Miguel del Valle in 2010 and **another** with ex-U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun in 2011.

The buyer of the property is a Chinese investor, Yuliang Tan, who paid cash for the property, according to Paul Tsakiris, president at Chicago-based First Western Properties Inc., who brokered the sale.

Chicago attorney Wayne Shapiro, who represented Ms. Tan during the closing, declined to comment.

Years before Ms. Dodas opened her namesake cafe, the building housed Jerry's Deli, whose owner **famously yelled** at employees and customers, sometimes escorting them to the counter to place orders, according to a 1974 documentary about the restaurant from filmmaker Tom Palazzolo.

The news comes the same day that New York organic grocer Mrs. Green's signed a deal to take over the vacant Fox & Obel store not far from Mary's Cafe, according to a Tribune report.

Image of Mary's Cafe via Flickr user [TheeErin](#)